WHAT STRANGE INFLUENCE HAS INTERFERED FIVE TIME

A B FENDER and Miss Mille Goings will be married at Whitesburg. Ky., next Wednesday. If—

Following that fold is a strange, weird story, and a mystery which has puzzled Whitesburg and most of the hill people of Letcher county for the last fifteen months.

WEDDING OF AB FENDER AND Somebody, or some organization, or-the Mille's house but the

superstitious people declare-some evil spirit her. loca not want Millie Goings to marry Ab Fender and is striving by means of the queerest plan ever conceived to keep them apart. Five times in the last fifteen months the young couple has planned to be married, five times the date has been met, out. I saw nothing and leaned out further to look into the five times the guests have assembled, and five times, on the eve of the wedding, once within ten minutes before the ceremony was to have begun. Ab Fender has suddenly disappeared. Each time, after two days, he has returned to Whitesburg, a little disheveled, a great deal angry, and wild for revenge. Each one of the five times he has been seized upon by an unknown person, or persons, and carried away into the Blue Ridge fastnesses to the east of Whitesburg. along the Virginia border. Yet not once has Fender had even a glimpse of his assailant or assailants, nor has he heard a voice speak. Most of the time he has been only half conscious; and each time but one he has come to his full senses n some out of the way gorge or in some deserted cabin, and found himself alone.

Puzzled to Know Cause of Kidnaping.

The strange part of it all is that, in the country and bitter enmities and sudden quarrel. Ab Fender is not known to have even one enemy, his genial good nature and his sunny disposition, his willingness to help, his kindness and generosity, as well as his good looks, having made him friends in all parts of the county and with all factions. But stranger than that is the fact that, except Ab, Millie Goings has no sultor, no acknowledged lover, although she has admirers by the score. She is one of the prettiest girls in all Letcher county, and, as a girl, the boys from both sides of the Blue Ridge were her admirers. Callers flocked to the home of Arthur Goings, her father, three miles across the valley from Whitesburg, when she came into full bloom of womanhood, but none of them ever had a chance, as Ab Fender was recognized for years as her favorite.

Ab, jolly, kindly, handsome, is one of the "best fixed" young men in all the Blue Ridge region, and his timber lands-since he got an opening to the railways across the mountains in Virginia-have made him a wealthy man-for that district.

Apparently every one was pleased, and certainly every one in the district rushed to offer congratulations, when, last July, it was announced that Ab and Milly Goings would be married. The date of the wedding was set for Feb. 15-on a Wednesday, because Milly's mother had been married on Peb. 15-also a Wednesday-and Milly planned to be married in the same saffron silk gown and old lace vell that ber mother and her mother's mother, back in Petersburg, Va., had worn when they were married.

#### First of His Queer Experiences.

All the plans for the wedding were laid. Ab traveled a wild gorge. They had been riding side by side and both over the mountains to Manchester to buy his wedding finery were armed. Dusk had fallen and the shadows were getting and it was planned that they would take a wedding trip to deeper in the woods. Suddenly from up the gorge there Richmond and to Petersburg. The day of the wedding arrived. It was to be an evening wedding, and the young couple was to spend the night at the Goings' home and start the volver, leaping from his horse, and starting toward the next morning over the mountains on horseback to Glamorgan, Va., to catch the train. Ab and Millie were together they're stealing her," he called back. during the morning-but the women were busy and told him not to be fussing around the house and sent him away. He kissed Millie tenderly and declared he would take himself out of the way until supper time. Then he rode into Ab tearing through the underbrush along the creek had Whitesburg, treated the crowd of men who gathered to congratulate him, and went up to his sawmill. He returned to his home in Whitesburg before 5 o'clock, ate supper with no sound. After fifteen minutes' frantic hunt he retreated Vance Mullenix, who was to be his best man, and went upstairs to attire himself for the wedding, which was to take place at 8 o'clock.

At 7 o'clock Vance, who was dressed and waiting, got uneasy, fearing they would be late after a three mile drive to the scene of the festivities, and, going to Ab's room, knocked at the door. There was no response and he pushed the door open and entered. Not a trace of the bridegroom was to be found. The alarm was hastily raised. A score of persons were let into the secret of the disappearance. A nessenger was dispatched to the Goings homestead to notify the bride of the disappearance of Ab.

Millie was prostrated. Her family and her friends thought Ab had deliberately run away to avoid marrying her, but reappeared. His clothing was torn, his flesh cut and braised, her faith in her lover remained firm, although she was frantic with fear that harm had befallen him.

#### Disappeared While He Was Dressing.

some trace of him. An examination of his room showed that in spite of them-whoever they may be." he had almost finished dressing and was ready to put on his coat and waistcoat when he stopped. Vance Mullimix vowed that Ab could not have left the room or the house without

the recreant lover, and there were a dozen young men ready to comfort Millie, but she would not listen to them. She declared something had happened to Ab and that he would return and explain.

The entire community was ready to upbraid (or worse)

Two days later, at dark, Ab reappeared. His wedding twelve miles down," finery was sadly soiled and torn and he was suffering from

Friday night Ab, almost crazed by anger, chagrin, and shame at the notoriety he had brought upon the girl he loved. his hands scarred, and he showed evidence of fierce re-This time the family of Miss Goings was determined that

conspiring to prevent the wedding.

His story was a strange one. "I was just finishing

dressing," he said, "when suddenly I thought I heard a noise

on the roof of the porch. I stepped to the window and looked

yard. Then it seemed as if I was being strangled and I lost

AB

cause Millie to throw him over,

of Ab was the wonder of the district. Millie's angry rela-

tives tried to keep them apart, but she saw him and was con-

vinced of the truth of his story. Together they discussed

the strange case and decided that some unknown enemy had

plotted the kidnaping, hoping that his disappearance would

Lured by His Sweetheart's Voice.

another wedding outfit, and, in the busy preparations for the

ceremony, they almost forgot the kidnaping, although Millie

begged Ab to be careful, fearing that some injury might be

done him. He promised, Again they planned an evening

wedding and again Vance Mullenix was chosen as best man,

This time Vance staid in the room with Ab until he was at-

tired, and together and on horseback they started to ride to the Goings home, where the minister and guests were waiting.

horses a drink in Distillery run, which flowed down through

came a wild scream: "Help, O. Ab, help!"

Two miles out of Whitesburg they stopped to give their

'My God, it's Millies voice," said Ab, grabbing his re-

Vance was after him in a minute. They went crashing

Suddenly Vance ceased to hear any sounds. The noise of

spot, running through the shallow water. "Come on, Vance.

forward up the creek, following the sound of the screams,

stopped and so had the screams. Wild with fear, Vance ran

forward. In vain he searched and called for Ab. There was

to the road and galloped rapidly to the Goings household and

raised the alarm. All the guests set out to find Ab and

Superstitious Blame Evil Spirits.

ended suddenly in a piece of soft ground along the creek.

The wedding date was next set for April 4. Ab purchased

FENDER

ninger cabin on the banks of Oven fork."

'I waked up late this afternoon. I was in a deserted

The mystery of the disappearance and the reappearance

said, "when suddenly I ducked my head to go under the dragged up into the tree, out of breath and choked. I re- garments after arriving at the bride's home, member hearing Vance running around on the ground, yelling and whistling, and then I partially lost consciousness, room to change his clothes-and disappeared again. He was I remember being lifted through the tree and on to the bluff. I heard no one speak nor did I feel any hands on me. When recovered this morning I was on the banks of Lents creek,

rescue him. Not a trace was to be found. His footsteps attached to any one. The entire affair was a puzzle. There ing after he disappeared, and had been over a day getting All that night and the next day the guests and neighbors was a hint that Vance Mullenix might be interested, as he back to Whitesburg, had once asked Millie to marry him and been refused, but searched, but there was no clew. The superstitious whites both Ab and Millie declined to consider that supposition. It and the ignorant blacks began to think that evil spirits were

Secret Ceremony Is Interrupted.

denied that such a thing was possible.

match should be broken off. "That's just what they be married in secret on the next Wednesday morning. No want," declared Millie, "If I refuse to wed Ab it will be one except Ab's mother, Millie's immediate family, and the The friends of the missing man scoured the country for just what they want. I love him and am going to marry him minister was told. It was planned that the wedding should be arranged so that no one would suspect such a thing. The Ab's experiences were worse than his first. "I went tear- minister was to call at the house during the morning. Ab ing along under the bushes, my revolver in my hand," he was to go to his sawmill, cross Copperas mountain, and his knowing it, as he was waiting in a room at the bottom lower branches of a tree. Instantly I was caught by a rope ing at the house at 11 o'clock, and the marriage was to be come to the Goings homestead by the mountain path, arrivof the stairs. An investigation in the garden showed or something and jerked into the air. The rope was partly solemnized before noon, To further deceive his enemies Ab footprints, as if some one had jumped from the low porch around my neck, but I fought as hard as I could. I was was to wear ordinary working clothes and change to better

The program was carried out exactly. Ab went to the simply gone, and there was not a trace left of him. Friday morning he reappeared again, sick, suffering from hunger and exposure. He said that, while dressing, he simply fell asleep. He remembered smelling some pungent odor just be- young couple remained together in the parlor waiting for his A family conference was held and everybody concerned fore he lost consciousness. He had waked up on the other return, great excitement and intense feeling. He rushed straight to discussed the matter. There was not a breath of suspicion side of Old Horny mountain, on the Virginia side, the mountain

The only theory possible was that he had been chloroformed, carried out upon the roof, and thence over the was even hinted that one of the bridemaids might have in-"leanto" kitchen to the back of the house and up the spired the attacks through love for Ab-but Ab blushingly mountain side. That this could have been accomplished without attracting the attention of somebody in the house full of guests seemed impossible.

Refused to Yield to Enemy.

ouple should The third of wedding caused a great sensation among the ignorant people, both whites and blacks, who declared evil spirits were. He had suffered two broken ribs and a fractured arm. banded together against the young couple. Ab was so affected that, in his desperation, he offered to renounce Millie. fearing that he would bring some calamity down upon her. The girl bravely refused to listen and declared they must fight their enemies together.

It was planned then to delay the wedding until fall and more. watch and wait for the enemy to expose himself. Nothing happened and the young people began to think that the enemy had forgotten them. On Sept. 9, without saying a word to any one, the two decided they would ride into Whitesburg, go to the minister's house, and have the ceremony performed. They reached the minister's house safely and asked him to marry them at once. He declared two witnesses were necessary. He offered to go for them. The

When the minister returned with the two witnesses he

found Millie alone, sleeping, evidently under the influenof some powerful anesthetic. Ab had disappeared. Millio did not know when or how. Two days later he returned

MILLIE GOINGS.

"I was sitting talking to Millie," he said, "and suddenly I caught a whiff of the odor I noticed the last time I disappeared. I turned my head suddenly and saw a shadow fall on the porch. I started to step to the window and been out. I remember reeling. The next thing I knew I was up by Baxter's mill, in the mountains."

Everybody concerned realized finally that they were dead ing with some powerful enemy. They decided that the outway was to guard both the bride and groom carefully, surround them at all times with friends, and keep guard on them

Accompanied by Armed Guard.

The date of the wedding was set for Christmas night, Again Millie got out her veil and her grandmother's suffren silk, and again Ab garbed himself in the splendor of a groom The company assembled Christmas afternoon, the men drinking the health of the bride and groom several times. Every time Ab moved one or two of his friends accompanied

him. Every man in the party was armed. At 7:30 that evening Mrs. Clint Rowe, who had been helping dress the bride, called down the stairway: "O, Ab, come up and see how pretty she looks."

With a bound Ab started up the stairway. Now, at the landing where the stairway turns, is a long window, flush with the floor of the landing. Ab turned this corner and stopped, seeing his bride standing, beautiful in the suffron silk and the old lace veil, at the head of the stairs. An instant later there was a shrick from the bride.

'Ab's fallen out of the window," she screamed. The women stood motionless. The men below were slow to catch the alarm, but when they did they grasped their revolvers, sprang out the door, and ran around the house Scarcely a minute had elapsed from the time that Ab fell out of the window, certainly not more than two minutes. but he had disappeared utterly. Dick Goings, a brother of the bride, and Sam White declared they heard the sound of horses' hoofs beating on the clay road, but whether they did or not, no one knows. It was discovered that Ab's body bad been carried over the picket fence that separated the yard from the road, but the trail was lost there.

Found in His Bed After Two Days.

The scare that time came near breaking off the match entirely. For an entire day and two nights the search continued, then Ab was found asleep in his own bed in Whitesburg. Whether he was carried there, or came there in a daze, or how long he had been there, he nor any one else

was prostrated from fear and the shock of th fifth destruction of their plans, and Ab was sick for weeks

"I was caught by the coat from behind and dragged through the window," he said. "I was not falling, but was swung out of the window. I distinctly heard some on slip down the steep roof of the little porch. I was knocked senseless when I hit the ground and remembered nothing

After Ab recovered he and Millie talked it all over. They agreed to get married, despite all opposition, and they firmly believe that, once wedded, the opposition will cease

The date for the wedding has been set for next Wednesday. Guards will surround the house and Ab and Millie will be watched constantly until the ceremony is over. The fact that no violence, beyond what was necessary to effect the capture, has been used in any one of the five kidnapings, assures both Ab and Millie that whoever is behind the act means them no harm beyond separating them. But they will breathe easier when the "I wills" are said.

00000000000000000000000

## Where Matchmakers Do a Thriving Business. Dora Bonn's Forehead



PID is a youth much worshiped in this land; love sick maidens seek his counsel-he is kept wonderfully busy binding hearts. But there are many lands where this same

Cupid is considered a madcap, a bungler dein marriage based on judgment, and so they intrust these affairs to professional matchmakers. In Turkey these women do a flourishing business, for if there is anything that a Moslem dislikes more than a Christian it is a bachelor or an old maid. In Turkey all women are expected to be woodd and won. services,

When the time comes for a man to marry his mother calls on a go-between and says she wants a worthy wife for her splendld boy. She makes the matchmaker understand the girl must be attractive, but she is willing to yield on a question of looks if the girl is of good family and is possessed of means. The "koulavouz" makes out a list of suitable families

and submits it to her patroness. They then send word to the harems of their approaching visit. The mammas receiving notices bustle around to put their households aright. The houses are swept and garnished; the floor cushions are reperfumed. They are received at every home in turn with great ceremony. As soon as they are seated the marriageable daughter enters with a tray full of coffee cups. When the cups are emptied the girl retires.

When the visit is at an end the friends and the ambitious mamma discuss the qualities of the different candidates. The most vital question is which girl can bring the most elaborate wardrobe. The matchmaker, the mother, and son then go into secret session until a common opinion is reached. If the koulavouz is sufficiently clever she gets a spiendid compensation for her efforts.

## Chinese Bride Seekers Flourish.

The Chinese, along with the Turks, believe that unmarried folks lead a most selfish existence. Anxious as they are to see their sons and daughters well settled they never negotiate a marriage, they leave this to the bride seekers, who carry on

a flourishing business. A man wishing a wife for his son or a woman wanting a husband for her daughter sends for the matchmaker. The is to be had, Paul-that is, a good one, as you say; for throth, matchmakers are of both sexes. The women are known to ther's many o' them in the market such as they are. I was drive the best bargains and the men to deal more honestly. The go-betweens take cognizance of the age, education, wealth, position, and appearance of the candidates. Red is who is the friend in the manetime?" the color used in negotiating marriages, any other is considered unlucky.

The go-between sends a vivid account to the girl's family and does likewise with the groom. If bot: parties are satis- you. fied the affair is considered with the necromancer. He compares the exact dates of their births. After deciding that the Td go and inform on you?" stars are favorable be tells the matchmaker that the engage-

ment may be formally announced. But the matchmaker's work is not over Before the mar- to you. riage takes place she brings the bride gifts from the groom-a roasted leg of pork, a bag of money, two bettles of wine, and offering. When the family has plenty of money the matchmaker is well rewarded for her services.

The Russians are another people who do not approve of men in love place offerings at his shrine and bachelors of bachelor maidens-nor do they favor Cupid's wiles and pranks. Sometimes their marriages are arranged through priests, but more frequently through a "svacha." She is supposed to be a cross between a witch and a notary and is well versed in the affairs of her client. But her talents serving of a whipping. These peoples believe extend beyond; she performs the duties of an astrologer and knows the lucky days, though she does not always consult the stars-she makes use of diamonds, clubs, and hearts, Among the peasantry she arranges all the details of the wedding, and they are many. She behaves like the wicked stepmother of the fairy tale to those who dare do without her

> The Greeks employ matchmakers in much the same way except that it is their business to see that the father of the young girl instead of the young man gives the dot.

#### J. Irish Matchmakers Are Shrewd.

The peasants of Ireland also believe that men and women are born to lave and make homes and they employ matchmakers to see that this tark is well done. Mr. Carleton, the novelist, believes the shrewdness of these women is of no mean sort. There is no one capable of driving a better bargain. She goes about it usually in this fastion:

"Cirra Biddy, then Paul Hefferman. Is that your beauty? If it is, why, keep him and make much of him." "O, wurrah, the differ there is between the hearts an' tongues of some people. . . . Well, well, I'm sure that wasn't the way he spoke of you, Biddy, an' God forgive you

for runnin' down the poor boy as you're doin'." Who, me? I'm not runnin' him down. I am not neither runnin' him up nor down. I have neither good nor bad to say about him-the boy's a black stranger to me, barrin' to know his face."

"Faix, an' he in constate wid you these three months past, an intends to be at the dance on Friday next, in Jack Gormby's house. Now, good-by alanna; keep your own counzel.-It's not behind every ditch that Paul Befferman grows. Next day a similar "accidental" meeting takes place between Paul and the matchmaker, much in this wise

How is your father's son, abagur'

My father's son wants nothing but a good wife, Mary." An' it's not every day or bonfire night that a good wife talkin' about you to a friend of mine the other day-an' trogs. I'm afcard you'se not worth all the abuse we give you. But

Biddy Sullivan, Is that Long Jack's daughter of The same. But, Paul, avick, if a syllable o' what I told

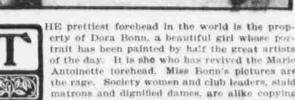
"Hut, Mary. Honor oright. Do you think me a stag, that

Pwishper, Paul. She'll be at the dance on Friday next in Jack Gormby's new house-. Think o' what I bethrayed

Of course, when Biddy and Paul meet at the dance Friday night they know nothing of Mary's intercession and fall destwo candles, but the girl is expected to return part of the perately in love with one another. Still, Mary is always webcomed among young people, who respect her sagacity and , frame is as bare as any other unframed feature. And she appreciate her kindness of heart.

# Prettiest in World.





erty of Dora Bonn, a beautiful girl whose por trait has been painted by half the great artists of the day. It is she who has revived the Marie Antoinette torchead. Miss Bonn's pictures are the rage. Society women and club leaders, staid matrons and dignitied dames, are alike copying her forehead. Miss Bonn is the Wenzell girl. an artist who considers her of all girls the most nearly his

ideal. "I do not paint a Wenzell girl." says Mr. Wenzell, because my style is too broad to admit of any one girl exclusively. But when I aim at a type I consider Miss Bonn the nearest my ideal.

To get the Marie Antoinette forehead the hair must be brushed back and high, and you can wear side curls with it if you want to. Queen Alexandra tried last week to wear the lofty forehead, but had to give it up. Miss Bonn knows that her forehead is the prettiest feature

of her face, and she cherishes it and brings it out, so as to show it off to better advantage. There are certain things she never does, things that would hide the loveliness of her brow. She does not comb her hair down over her forehead. She does not pull down her pompadour to make one of

those hideous bags over the eye. She dresses her hair high and wide, and manages to make frame always for that lovely forehead of hers. She never lets it suffer from lack of a frame. A forehead without a keeps her hair bright.

### First Canadian Man to Sue for Breach of Promise. HIS is the story of the love of James A. Learn - This farm, Learn explained, was one of seventy acres, in the first Canadian to sue a woman for breach. South Walsingham, in which his betrothed had a half in-



to another love, all told amid the unromantic surroundings of an assize court at St. Thomas, Carnda.

was the romance laid bare to a curious and unsympathetic ten "wife." This is how James told the story in the witness box. In

1898 he lived with his aged mother and 10 year old son in New Year's resolutions he made one that he would marry again. So in January he advertised in a Chicago matrimonial paper for a wife, and on Feb. 13, 1889, received a reply from Seraphine White of Port Rowan. The letter run: "Dear Sir: I saw your charming advertisement, and it is with great pleasure that I reply, as I like your description. I suppose you will receive a great number of letters, but I truly hope you will not forget to answer mine. I am a farmer's daughter, aged 30 years, 5 feet 5 inches high, brown eyes, auburn hair, and a well to do young lady and highly respected. I am, your unknown friend. SERAPHINE WHITE."

James Didn't Look Pious.

Highly gratified by the description, James replied and a correspondence of a more or less tender nature followed. Learn outlined some of his good points, and in the course of time-to be exact, on March 28-received a letter which contained the following

"Got your best love, but did not have to wait to the end. of the letter, as I got it all through. I was glad to get your love letter. . . . I want to know all about yourself. Have you been a lood man since your wife died? Were you married only once? Tell me the truth and it will be all right." A whole leaden footed month passed, and on May 4 the

two met for the first time and exchanged tender sentiments decided to keep the correspondence going. They were not really and truly engaged though, merely keeping epistolary Finally, on Oct. 13. James Learn committed himself

irrevocably. He went to a jewelry store with the measure

of his intended's finger, previously provided by mail, and phine. bought an engagement ring. This he placed on her finger, in another hotel parlor, and the two became engaged Then matters dragged for a time. There were letters and reciprocal visits, but no wedding cake. James was in a hurry to get married, but Scraphine held back. So the years rolled by. Old Mrs. Learn died in July, 1962. Her son had to get man and his wife to work the farm on shares for a year.

There were letters about this time too. In one of them figures

a man destined to take a prominent part in the subsequent

proceedings-Edward Biddle, familiarly known as "Ted."

Mr. Learn Grows Impatient. After this Mr. Learn began to get real impatient, and

She wanted to make something out of the stuff on the farm. Biddle-with costs.

of promise-of Seraphine White's marriage to terest, besides a certain amount of cash and other property. another, and of James' subsequent marriage. Then James made a bad break. He did a strange, an unaccountable thing. He advertised for a wife in an Aylmer (Canada) paper. Another advertisement to the same effect in a Port Burwell paper he repudiates entirely. His Aylmer James Learn wanted pecuniary balm for "slip" he explained by saying he intended to advertise for his frostbitten hopes, and he sued Scraphine for \$2,000. Thus a "housekeeper." By a most regrettable error he had writ-He had had a few drinks at Aylmer on that occasion and had spent the night in the lockup for disturbing a Salvation army meeting. Concerning the drinking business Mr. Learn described a drive home from St. Thomas with his Mapleton, Canada. He was a widower, and among other prospective bride, in the course of which the subject was alluded to. Miss White said she didn't want a man who got drunk when he went away from home and begind him to

> JA: Taffy and Kisses for James.

become an abstainer. He kindly but firmly declined.

On Christmas day, 1903, he visited Miss White at her home and they were friendly. They sat in the parlor for more than two hours that Christmas night. He did not use strong language. No such thing. He never told Miss White to go to a warm place, where his Michigan girl went. The idea: He was too much of a gentleman to use language like that He always enjoyed himself when he visited Miss White. They did extra baking always when they knew he was coming; his betrothed used to make taffy for him, and he was fond of taffy. He never gave her any presents during their five years' engagement-only a little jackknire. It was not an expensive engagement; quite the contrary, but he never got the engagement ring back.

Pressed to enumerate the losses he had sustained Mr. Learn thought the necessity of hiring help had cost him about \$100, leaving a balance of \$1,500. He had not counted the taffy and the meals and the pleasant time he had had an a contra account in estimating his claim.

Shortly after the visit to St. Thomas Miss White stopped writing. Why? Mr. Biddle-"Ted." who was nearly killed in a parior at Simcoe. Each was well pleased, and it was by learning of a previous visit-had reappeared on the scene

Mr. Learn was ignored and his letters unanswered. In despair he sent a telegram and paid for it and the roply in agricultural currency, beans being the medium in this case, But there was no reply.

Then the blow fell. On April 21, 1904, Ted married Seru-

### James Appeals to the Law.

Planted by Capid, the stricken James sought out a sterner delty, the blindfolded goddess, and carried his woes into the law courts, demanding the sum of \$2,000 to heal the facerations in his feelings.

Then another surprise came. Four months to a day after the wedding of "Ted" and Scraphine, Mr. Learn led a bride to the altar, older than Scraphine, much older-61 compared to 37-older even than himself, and this disparity of age Mr. Learn, or, at any rate, his counsel thought should weigh with the jury in considering the case.

That the jury did think so may be gathered from the fact pressed for a speedy marriage, but still Scraphine was coy, that they readered a verdict for Scraphine-pardon; Mrs.